

whether the sander is in the on or off state, even when the sander is not plugged in. It is likewise easy to seal the switch actuation bar relative to the housing in order to prevent dirt and dust from reaching the on/off switch 62. The switch actuator bar is provided with a cam surface which cooperates with the switch bottom as illustrated in phantom outline in Figure 2 to operate the switch.

In The Claims

Please replace the claims as shown below. A marked up version of the amended claims is attached to this Amendment.

1. (Amended) An orbital sander comprising:
 - an elongate tubular housing aligned along the central axis having a first end, a second end and a central tubular region in the second end;
 - a high speed permanent magnet DC motor disposed within the housing central tubular region, the motor having a cylindrical body with a central axis and a rotary motor shaft generally coaxially aligned with the central axis;
 - an eccentric drive shaft rotatably driven by the motor shaft about the central axis and having a drive member eccentrically offset from the central axis;
 - a sanding platen oriented adjacent to the housing second end and orbitally driven by the drive member, the platen having a planar surface perpendicular to the central axis adapted to receive sand paper; and
 - a bearing interposed between the sanding platen and the eccentric drive shaft drive member freely rotatably connecting the sanding platen and drive member to cause the sanding platen to orbit as the motor rotates.

11. (Amended) The orbital sander of claim 1 wherein the sanding platen is freely mounted to the housing by the bearing and is capable of rotating about the central axis in order to operate in a random orbit manner.

By
concluded
Sub
C1

12. (Amended) The orbital sander of claim 1 wherein the sanding platen is mounted to the housing by a retainer which allows relative orbital movement of the sanding platen relative to the housing, but prohibits free rotation of the sanding platen about the central axis.

B3

16. (Amended) The orbital sander of claim 14 wherein the disc portion of the fan is generally uniform in thickness and each of the plurality of fan blades are generally uniform in thickness enabling the eccentric drive to be integrally formed as a metal die casting minimum porosity.

22. (Amended) The orbital sander of claim 21 wherein the dust outlet is formed by a relatively small diameter outlet tube having a relatively larger diameter collar spaced thereabout, the small diameter tube sized to cooperate with a small diameter dust collection tube and the larger diameter collar sized to alternatively cooperate with a large diameter tube or a porous dust collection cannister.

B6
Sub
C1

23. (Amended) The orbital sander of claim 22 wherein the relatively small dust outlet tube is a nominal diameter to 1" to 1 1/2" while the collar has a diameter of 2" to 2 3/4".

B7

24. (Amended) An assembly for an orbital sander comprising:
a drive member rotatable about an axis and having an eccentrically offset hub
and a plurality of fan blades;
a sanding member connected to the hub; and
the fan blades distributed angularly around the axis in a non-uniform manner
to balance the assembly about the axis.